

Dear Virginia 9-1-1 Services Board,

At its April 26, 2018 meeting, the PSAP Grants Committee (PGC) voted to support Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20) grant guidelines which include increased PSAP Education Program (PEP) Grant amounts. The Board of Directors for the Virginia Chapter of APCO (VA APCO) enthusiastically supports these increases.

Last adjusted in 2009, the PEP Grants support exactly the kind of training and education the 9-1-1 community needs. As we move together into Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1), quality ongoing training will be critical to keeping up with inevitable changes in technology, policies, operations, and public expectations. Indeed, continuous training is the mark of a truly professional public safety workforce.

The Virginia APCO Board supports the amounts recommended by PGC members, developed by review of the consumer price index (CPI) increases, as well as documented escalations in costs for training, conferences, and travel. We hope you will vote to support the justifiable and sustainable PEP increases at your May 24, 2018 meeting.

Thank you for your continued support of Virginia's 9-1-1 community.

With gratitude,

Gabe Elias

President, Virginia APCO

Tabe Elias_